

## (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date  
13 September 2001 (13.09.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 01/67361 A1(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: G06F 17/60

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/07448

(22) International Filing Date: 8 March 2001 (08.03.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/188,324 9 March 2000 (09.03.2000) US(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SMART  
RESEARCH TECHNOLOGIES, INC. [US/US]; 1606  
Preston Avenue, Austin, TX 78703 (US).

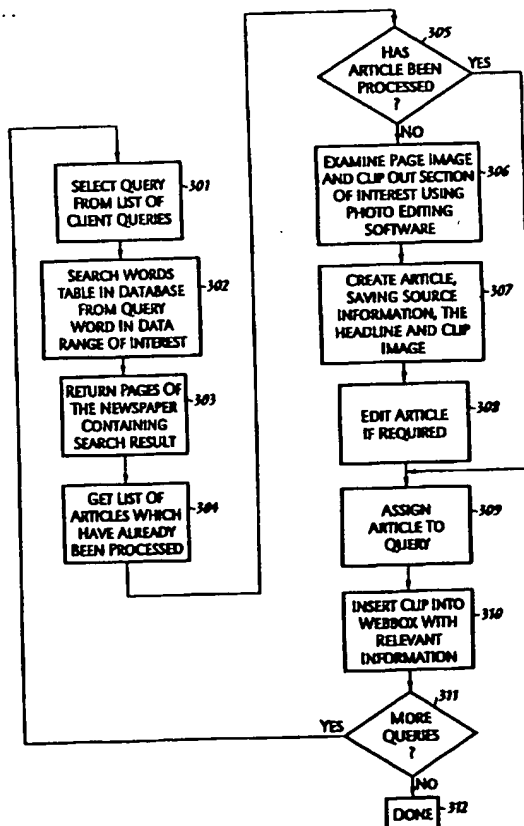
(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): WALSH, Francis,

E. [US/US]; 1606 Preston Avenue, Austin, TX 78703 (US).  
READ, David, M. [US/US]; 940 Spanish Oak Trail, Cedar  
Park, TX 78613 (US).(74) Agents: KORDZIK, Kelly, K. et al.; Winstead Sechrest  
& Minick P.C., 1201 Main Street, P.O. Box 50784, Dallas,  
TX 75250-0784 (US).(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,  
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE,  
DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU,  
ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS,  
LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO,  
NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR,  
TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,  
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian  
patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European  
patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED INFORMATION FROM ELECTRONIC DATABASE



(57) Abstract: A publication can be received in electronic form and then selected portions clipped with a software editing tool (306) for pasting into a customer's web box (104). The customer may then view the clipped portion at their leisure (405). The electronic form of the publication may be created by scanning in the publication (101). Selected portion can be advertisements (1101) and thus provide to the customer as tear sheets (1602). Selected portions can also be searched for using a query (302) to provide an ability to quickly find news clippings desired by the customer (303).

WO 01/67361 A1



IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

**Published:**

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

## DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED INFORMATION FROM ELECTRONIC DATABASE

### TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates in general to information processing systems, and in particular, to internet distribution to customers of news articles or advertising tear sheets that have been electronically clipped from a database of electronic publications that have been scanned.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There are a couple of processes that are performed with respect to the print media industry that remain relatively in the pre-Internet "dark ages": news-clipping and tear sheets.

Currently, the print news-article clipping industry process is all done manually. A hard copy of each newspaper or magazine is read by a person visually searching for a client or a client's competitor's name. Once an article is identified, the article is manually clipped and set aside. Another person places a tag on the article identifying the publication and the date of the publication. The news articles are then set aside and periodically mailed to the client. At best, and for a premium fee, news articles are copied and then faxed to the client. Once the client receives the articles in the mail, they need to be put into some order, copied and sent out to other locations, again most often via the mail. This process can take a week to 10 days.

The current news clipping industry process is not responsive to the needs of clients in an era in which fast breaking news can have a dramatic effect on an organization. The current process is slow, lacks a high degree of accuracy and provides little help to the organization in terms of distribution to a variety of offices in the United States or around the world.

Print publications, newspapers and magazines that publish advertisements must provide advertisers with "proof of publication" of the advertisements before the advertisers will pay for the advertisements. Currently these publications provide "tear sheets" of the advertisements to the advertiser. This is done manually by clipping or tearing the

advertisements from the publication and then combining the "tear sheets" with an invoice and mailing these to the advertisers via U.S. mail.

Currently the problem of "tear sheets" is mostly being done manually. Some organizations have attempted to solve a portion of this problem. CE Engineering of Lumas, California scans newspapers into a CD ROM and then provides the CD ROM back to the newspaper publisher for them to do tear sheets on sight on their own computers. These tear sheets are then combined with an invoice and mailed to the advertisers. AdPOP, advertising proof of publication, owned by Novus Marketing of Minneapolis, Minnesota, has a software program that allows publications to create digital documents and process tear sheets for delivery by U.S. Mail. Ad Looks, Inc. scans publications and provides access to advertiser's (see [www.ad-looks.com](http://www.ad-looks.com)).

Both the news-clipping and tear sheet processes are labor intensive, and thus costly, prone to errors, slow, and inconvenient. Therefore, there is a need in the art to improve these services by automation and speedier communication.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the news-clipping embodiment of the present invention, news articles can be clipped from an electronic database created by scanning print news publications or downloading via electronic means, and after being annotated with publication name, section and page number, and placed on a customer's internet web box, which can be accessed via password. One or all of the clipped news articles can be downloaded from the web box by using an ordinary office printer. After a period of time, the news articles are archived on a CD-ROM. The accounting and management function have been automated and integrated into the invention.

In accordance with the tear sheet embodiment of the present invention, the publication can be received digitally from the publisher, advertisements identified and electronically clipped, and placed into each advertiser's web box within a specified web site. The advertiser's web box is accessible and protected by password. The advertiser's web box contains each advertisement run in the publication, all relevant data about the advertisement (publication name, date, section, page number, size of advertisement in column inches, invoice number and cost of advertisement). The clipping software can be integrated with the publication's accounting software to provide cost of specific advertisements and total cost of

advertisements for the billing period. The web box page showing the clipped advertisement can include an interactive space allowing advertiser and publication personnel to communicate concerning the advertisement. The advertisement may be forwarded to other locations by the advertiser using e-mail.

As advertiser and publication personnel work together for a finished product to appear in the publication, the draft of the advertisement can be transmitted back and forth via the advertiser's web box. With the draft of the advertisement on the web page, advertiser and publication personnel can communicate via an e-mail capacity on the same page with the draft. Changes can be requested, made and final approval acquired quickly. Once final approval is given, the advertiser selects the approval button on the page and this provides the publication with a legal Internet signature. The advertisement can then be forwarded to the appropriate page in the publication.

Accordingly, several objects and advantages of the present invention are:

- (a) to scan into a database or to receive digitally a significantly large number of newspapers and news magazines;
- (b) to OCR and index the news database;
- (c) to computer search the database for words or phrases according to client objectives thus significantly increasing the accuracy of the search when compared to manual readers;
- (d) to identify and bring to the computer screen specific news articles via search requirements;
- (e) to clip said news articles and place them into the client's web box automatically annotated with the publication's name, section and page number attached;
- (f) to present news articles in an organized fashion in the web boxes according to client's need to review news articles;
- (g) to provide client with ability to access web box via password and download one or more of news articles from an ordinary office printer; ((a) through (g) steps may be accomplished daily)
- (h) to store news articles in web box over a period of time and then provide the client with a CD-ROM of the news articles in the same order that they were being held in the web box;
- (i) to provide back searches of the database for articles that were not requested in current time;

- (j) to provide advertising searches for clients who want to compare what level and kinds of advertising one or more competitors are doing;
- (k) to bring together single subject compilations from large numbers of publications so that the coverage of the single subject can be quickly reviewed and understood by a client;
- (l) and, to provide phrase searches of two or more words (i.e. airline ticket price increase, voter turnout, etc.).

Further objects and advantages are to provide invoicing data for each client's account by having the invoice database automatically updated each time a news clip is added to the web box and delivering the invoice via e-mail at the end of each accounting period and to provide the supervisor of several editing positions with an on-going count of each position's clip totals so that each position can be monitored for profitability during the work period.

Further objects and advantages of the tear sheet embodiment are:

- (a) to replace a manual for an electronic process.
- (b) to electronically clip all advertisements and provide them to advertisers as legal proof of publication.
- (c) to integrate the process with a publication's accounting software to provide advertisers with current and on-going advertising costs.
- (d) to provide the advertiser and publication with e-mail communications procedures on the same pages as the advertisement of the web box giving advertisers and publication's personnel real-time reconciliation opportunities if they are needed.
- (e) to provide for quick, interactive communication between advertiser and publication as the advertisement is created ending with an Internet signature of final approval.

The present invention takes a highly personnel intensive, costly, manual process to the internet where the process is accomplished faster, integrates accounting data, invoices electronically and distributes this information anywhere in the world. The proofing function provides a faster and more accurate solution to courier and faxing now being used.

The foregoing has outlined rather broadly the features and technical advantages of the present invention in order that the detailed description of the invention that follows may be better understood. Additional features and advantages of the invention will be described hereinafter which form the subject of the claims of the invention.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

For a more complete understanding of the present invention, and the advantages thereof, reference is now made to the following descriptions taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is an overview of an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a flow diagram illustrating a process of adding documents to the database.

FIG. 3 is a flow diagram illustrating a process of clipping news clips from the database and placing the news clips into the client's web box.

FIG. 4 is a flow diagram illustrating a process a client uses to access, view, and print news clips stored in the web box.

FIG. 5 is a flow diagram illustrating accounting and management tools used to manage the news clipping process.

FIG. 6 is a data processing system capable of implementing the present invention.

FIG. 7 illustrates a block diagram in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 8 illustrates a flow diagram in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 9 illustrates a network password dialogue block for entering the tear sheet process of the present invention.

FIGURES 10-17 illustrate web pages configured in accordance with the tear sheet process of the present invention.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In the following description, numerous specific details are set forth to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. However, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced without such specific details. In other instances, well-known circuits have been shown in block diagram form in order not to obscure the present invention in unnecessary detail. For the most part, details concerning timing considerations and the like have been omitted in as much as such details are not necessary to obtain a complete understanding of the present invention and are within the skills of persons of ordinary skill in the relevant art.

Refer now to the drawings wherein depicted elements are not necessarily shown to scale and wherein like or similar elements are designated by the same reference numeral through the several views.

News-clipping has been performed manually for years. The present invention replaces much of the labor intensive tasks with an automated system.

Referring to FIG. 1, the system provides for a central depository 101 including the process of scanning regular and over-sized publications, providing optical character recognition (OCR) and indexing being entered into the database. Essentially, process 101 involves scanning publications into a database of text and image files, whereby the text is placed in a text file and each page of the publication is placed in an image file pertaining to the publication. In process 102, the database can be searched by with word searches; when words are identified on a page, the entire page is displayed on the computer screen; the specific article with the word is visually identified and electronically clipped and assigned to a query; the article is then placed into the client's web box. While the 102 process is being performed, two important management functions 103 are performed: (1) as each news clip is processed for a client, it is automatically noted in the client's invoice application so that at the end of an invoice period, the invoice is automatically ready to be sent to the client via e-mail, thus eliminating much of the manual accounting function of an office; and (2) each news-clip position (employee performing news-clipping) is monitored by providing a manager with how many news clips have been made in each position at any time during the work day. On the client side of this invention 104, the customer has an individually designed web box into



which news clips are placed. The client, and anyone whom the client has given a password, can access the web box from any location in the world where access to the Internet is available, view individual articles, download individual articles from an ordinary office printer, or download articles into a computer and distribute them via e-mail.

Referring to FIG. 2, there is illustrated a process for adding documents (or entire publications) to the database discussed with respect to FIG. 1. The process begins in step 201 with the scanning, optical character recognition (OCR), and indexing of the image file into the server. Once in the server, in step 202, the file name, image file name, journal page and date are added. From this complete database, in step 203, a list of garbage words are retrieved from the database. Garbage words are words such as "the," "and," etc., that are not particular to the subject matter of the news article in which they reside. Once the file is open in step 204, the process of reading characters can begin and words can be separated (parsed) in step 205 using the delimiter list. The delimiter list (garbage list) is created by the programmer. The next step 206 is a check to determine whether the word is in the garbage list and then to determine in step 207 whether the word is stored in the stored words list (words scanned that are not garbage words). If the word is not in the stored word list, it can be added in step 208 at this point. If the word is already in the list of stored words, a counter that tracks how many times the word appears is incremented in step 211. If more words need to be added, the process in steps 205 through 209 can be repeated. If the word is in the garbage list, the process can jump from step 206 to step 209. Once this process is complete, the operator loops through the list of words and adds a record to the database for each word in step 210. Such a record may include a hyperlink to the client.

It should be noted that the OCR function can be replaced or supplemented with the scanning of periodicals from on-line sources, scanning the Internet, and scanning streaming video, such as from news sources. Furthermore, a translation function can be added so that foreign documents and Internet websites in foreign languages can be scanned and translated for the client. Yet still further, the scanning function can be eliminated if an electronic copy of the document can be obtained, such as from the publisher.

FIG. 3 illustrates the news clipping process of the present invention. The process allows for an operator to now select in step 301 a query from the list of client queries (a list of words provided by the client). The searching process in step 302 begins searching the words table in the database (see step 210) from query word(s) within a date range indicated. (Since

each word in the words database has an associated publication date, the query can be limited to a specified date range.) Once the search is completed, the invention returns in step 303 pages of the publication containing all of the search results. The portion of the process ends in step 304 with a list of all the articles in the database which the query generates, including noting those articles that have already been processed. The next step 305 goes through each article to determine if it has been processed. If an article has been processed, in step 309 a mouse click on the article automatically sends it to be assigned to the client. If the answer to the question in step 305 is NO, then in step 306, the operator examines the image file of the publication page in which the article appears and clips the article from the page using photo editing software. The article is then created (electronically copied) in step 307 and a headline is added (assigned to the file) to the clipped image. The article is then edited in step 308 if required and assigned to the client's query in step 309. Editing may be performed to append sections of an article together when the sections are on different pages of the publication, or to make the article more presentable. The clip is then electronically inserted into the client's web box file with relevant information in step 310. Steps 305-310 can be repeated for each article pertaining to a query. If more queries are required in step 311, the operator repeats steps 305 through 310. If there are no more queries required, the process is complete in step 312.

In FIG. 4 illustrates a process that provides the client with access to a web box using security and a password in step 401. The view in step 402 of the client web box moves directly to a list of articles in step 403 that illustrates the client's search words (used by operator in query described in FIG. 4) and web box organizational pattern they have selected. At this point, the client can select any article in step 404 by clicking on it with a mouse. As described above, such articles were placed in the web box in step 310. In step 405, the web browser displays the article information (publication, section, page and date) and scanned article as a jpeg file. The client now has the choice to print the article in step 406 by right clicking on the article and selecting print in step 407 (or selecting "print" from the File menu) or saving the article to a local computer in step 408 by right clicking on the article and selecting save to disk in step 409 (or selecting "save" from the File menu). The client may print the article in step 406 or save to a local computer in step 408 or just go on to view a different article in step 410. If the client wants to see other articles, this is done by selecting the back button on the browser in step 411 which returns the client to step 403 which is a list

of all the articles available to the client. If the client is finished with the web box, the client can close the browser or logout in step 412.

FIG. 5 illustrates a process that provides additional accounting and management functions. An accounting or management user logs in using security and password in step 501. As an operator performs the clipping function in steps 301 through 311, the software, in step 502, automatically adds each clip to an invoice to be sent to the client at the end of the invoice period in step 503. The invoice has within it specific client data relating to cost of services which are automatically tabulated and totaled during the invoice period. The completed invoice is automatically sent via e-mail to each client. This invention also provides a management function in which managers can track an operator's rate of clipping during any period of the day, week or month. As operators make clips for a client, a separate tally is automatically kept on each operator and in step 504 is available on the manager's computer. The manager simply selects a specific operator and the time period of measurement in step 505 and the computer provides a tally for that operator for that time period. If invoice data needs to be added, changed, or additional operator reports desired, the manager in step 506 begins the process with either invoices or operator tallies. If the manager is finished with these functions, the application can be closed in step 507.

Thus, the reader will see that the scanning, electronic clipping and internet distribution of the invention moves the print news clipping industry from a completely manual process to highly technical process using computer and internet driven technology to make the process more accurate, timely and cost effective with a multitude of value-added services not now available with the manual process.

Furthermore, the invention breaks all geographical barriers in that scanning done anywhere in the world can be gathered at a central location; the clipping function performed and distribution anywhere on the world-wide web. Again, this is done daily. The accounting and management functions have also been added to take advantage of computer technology.

In addition, with the print publications in a database, publications in a variety of languages can be computer translated for the convenience of clients who prefer a translation different than the original publication language.

Referring to FIG. 7, there are a variety of advertising sources that could possibly feed advertising into the sales operations of a publication. An example of a local advertising

source would be a local company within a city where a publication is distributed. A national advertising source might be a company having a national presence. Companies often hire advertising agencies to handle their advertising needs. A single source – single pay advertising source is as the name implies. And, co-op advertisers is when companies cooperate to both have a presence within an ad.

Advertising sources require a tear sheet (advertisement as published) as proof of publication prior to paying an invoice to the publication. Today, tear sheets are typically manually clipped. About 25% of advertisers require a daily clipping of the tear sheet for use in their marketing activities. For example, a business might want to display their ad being run in a newspaper within the store within the same day that the ad is published in the newspaper. Furthermore, 100% of the advertisements will be clipped by the accounting department and sent with a monthly invoice to the advertising source.

Using the same electronic file that is used to print a publication, the tear sheet process of the present invention enables employees to clip 100% of a publication's advertisements within a few hours each day. The electronic tear sheets then can be automatically placed on a web page (web box) of an advertising source via a typical browser distribution. Advertising sources may then download and/or distribute the electronic tear sheets. The advantages of electronic tear sheets are numerous.

If the electronic tear sheet process of the present invention is performed by a service provider for a publication, e.g., outsourced to a service provider by the publication, then the publication can be provided in print form or electronic form to the service provider, much in the same way as described above with respect to Figures 1 and 2 with the news-clipping process. If a printed publication is provided, then it will have to be scanned in as described above. An electronic version of the publication eliminates the scanning process.

Then, for each advertising source, the advertisements can be clipped and then inserted into the web box for each advertiser. These processes are performed much in the same manner as described above with respect to the news-clipping process. Furthermore, the tear sheet clipping process can also be performed internally by the publication, instead of outsourcing the process to a vendor.

The present invention also provides some added benefits when the electronic tear sheet clipping process is integrated with the publication's accounting software to provide cost

of specific advertisements and total cost of advertisements for a billing period. Furthermore, the electronic tear sheet process can also be integrated into the functions performed by the sales and production staffs to enable a more efficient and accurate creation and publication of advertisements for customers.

As advertiser and publication personnel work together for a finished product (ad to be published) to appear in the publication, the draft of the advertisement can be transmitted back and forth via the web box illustrated in FIG. 7. Referring to FIG. 9, an internetwork password dialog box can be used to enable an advertising source to enter the web box in a controlled manner. FIG. 10 illustrates an example of the next web page that is displayed to the advertising source. Hyperlinks are shown to enable the advertising source to view any current ads running within the publication for that advertising source, and any upcoming proposed ads to be reviewed and approved by the advertising source. An ad history, and other accounting information can also be included for viewing.

As an example, after the advertising source mouse clicks on the Upcoming Ad's hyperlink, the web page in FIG. 11 may be displayed. The web page of FIG. 11 illustrates an ad created by the production staff of the publication for review by the advertising source. Additionally, a calendar can be shown on the web page indicating what days the ad will be published with the publication, which in this example would be the dates of April 10-12. Also shown is a job number, the section and page of the publication in which the ad will appear, and the costs for the ad for the dates shown. Further, an e-mail box 1106 is provided on the web page to enable the advertising source to provide any comments with respect to the proposed ad 1101. An Approve button 1108 is provided for the advertising source to approve of the upcoming ad 1101, the dates it will be published, the location of the publication of the ad 1104, and the price for the ad 1105. The submit button 1107 permits the advertising user to submit any comments or an approval to the publication.

If the advertising source then returns to the web page of FIG. 10, the advertising source can mouse click on the Current Ad's hyperlink, resulting in the web page of FIG. 12 being displayed. In this example, it is shown that an ad was ordered for publication on August 3, 2000 in section E, page 10, having a size of nine column-inches at a cost of \$200. A View Ad hyperlink 1201 can be mouse clicked by the advertising user resulting in the display of the web page of FIG. 13. Shown will be the page 1301 of the publication, which in this example is page 10 of section E, which shows the nine column-inch ad 1302 positioned

on that page of the publication. If hyperlink 1303 is mouse clicked, then a full-scale image of the ad 1302 will be displayed on another web page shown in FIG. 14.

Returning to FIG. 10, another example of a current ad hyperlink can occur resulting in the web page of FIG. 15 being displayed to the advertising source. FIG. 15 shows another example of current ads for an advertising source. A mouse click on one of the view ad hyperlinks 1501 could result in the web page of FIG. 16 being displayed, which shows an example of a co-op advertisement. Either clicking on the ad 1602 or on the View Ad at full-scale hyperlink 1601 would result in the web page of FIG. 17 being displayed.

Referring to FIG. 6, an example is shown of a data processing system 600 which may be used for the invention. The system has a central processing unit (CPU) 610, which is coupled to various other components by system bus 612. Read only memory ("ROM") 616 is coupled to the system bus 612 and includes a basic input/output system ("BIOS") that controls certain basic functions of the data processing system 600. Random access memory ("RAM") 614, I/O adapter 618, and communications adapter 634 are also coupled to the system bus 612. I/O adapter 618 may be a small computer system interface ("SCSI") adapter that communicates with a disk storage device 620. Communications adapter 634 interconnects bus 612 with an outside network enabling the data processing system to communicate with other such systems. Input/Output devices are also connected to system bus 612 via user interface adapter 622 and display adapter 636. Keyboard 624 and mouse 626 are interconnected to bus 612 via user interface adapter 622. Display monitor 638 is connected to system bus 612 by display adapter 636. In this manner, a user is capable of inputting to the system throughout the keyboard 624, or mouse 626 and receiving output from the system via display 638.

Implementations of the invention include implementations as a computer system programmed to execute the method or methods described herein, and as a computer program product. According to the computer system implementation, sets of instructions for executing the method or methods are resident in the random access memory 614 of one or more computer systems configured generally as described above. Until required by the computer system, the set of instructions may be stored as a computer program product in another computer memory, for example, in disk drive 620 (which may include a removable memory such as an optical disk or floppy disk for eventual use in the disk drive 620). Further, the computer program product can also be stored at another computer and

transmitted when desired to the user's workstation by a network or by an external network such as the Internet. One skilled in the art would appreciate that the physical storage of the sets of instructions physically changes the medium upon which it is stored so that the medium carries computer readable information. The change may be electrical, magnetic, chemical, biological, or some other physical change. While it is convenient to describe the invention in terms of instructions, symbols, characters, or the like, the reader should remember that all of these and similar terms should be associated with the appropriate physical elements.

Note that the invention may describe terms such as comparing, validating, selecting, identifying, or other terms that could be associated with a human operator. However, for at least a number of the operations described herein, which form part of at least one of the embodiments, no action by a human operator is desirable. The operations described are, in large part, machine operations processing electrical signals to generate other electrical signals.

Although the present invention and its advantages have been described in detail, it should be understood that various changes, substitutions and alterations can be made herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

- 1           1.     An information clipping method comprising the steps of:  
2                 receiving a digital file of a publication;  
3                 searching the digital file using a search query;  
4                 displaying a page of the publication as a result of the searching step, wherein  
5     the page contains a word found by the search query;  
6                 performing a software clipping of a selected portion of the page of the  
7     publication containing the word; and  
8                 inserting the selected portion clipped from the page of the publication into a  
9     webbox.
- 1           2.     The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of scanning a  
2     printed version of the publication to create the digital file.
- 1           3.     The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the searching step further comprises  
2     the steps of:  
3                 reading each word in the digital file;  
4                 excluding garbage words;  
5                 creating a database of words read from the digital file exclusive of the garbage  
6     words; and  
7                 performing the searching step using the search query on the database of words.
- 1           4.     The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
2                 displaying an image of the selected portion to a user accessing the webbox.



1           5.     A system comprising:  
2                 circuitry for receiving a digital file of a publication;  
3                 circuitry for searching the digital file using a search query;  
4                 circuitry for displaying a page of the publication, wherein the page contains a  
5 word found by the search query;  
6                 circuitry for performing a software clipping of a selected portion of the page  
7 of the publication containing the word; and  
8                 circuitry for inserting the selected portion clipped from the page of the  
9 publication into a webbox.

1           6.     The system as recited in claim 5, further comprising a scanner for scanning a  
2 printed version of the publication to create the digital file.

1           7.     The system as recited in claim 5, wherein the searching circuitry further  
2 comprises:  
3                 circuitry for reading each word in the digital file;  
4                 circuitry for excluding garbage words;  
5                 circuitry for creating a database of words read from the digital file exclusive of  
6 the garbage words; and  
7                 circuitry for performing the search query on the database of words.

1           8.     The system as recited in claim 5, further comprising:  
2                 circuitry for displaying an image of the selected portion to a user  
3 accessing the webbox.

1           9.     An information clipping method comprising the steps of:  
2                 receiving a digital file of a publication;  
3                 displaying a page of the publication accessed from the digital file, wherein the  
4 page contains an advertisement;  
5                 performing a software clipping of the advertisement; and  
6                 inserting the advertisement clipped from the page of the publication into a  
7 webbox.

1           10.    The method as recited in claim 9, further comprising the step of scanning a  
2 printed version of the publication to create the digital file.

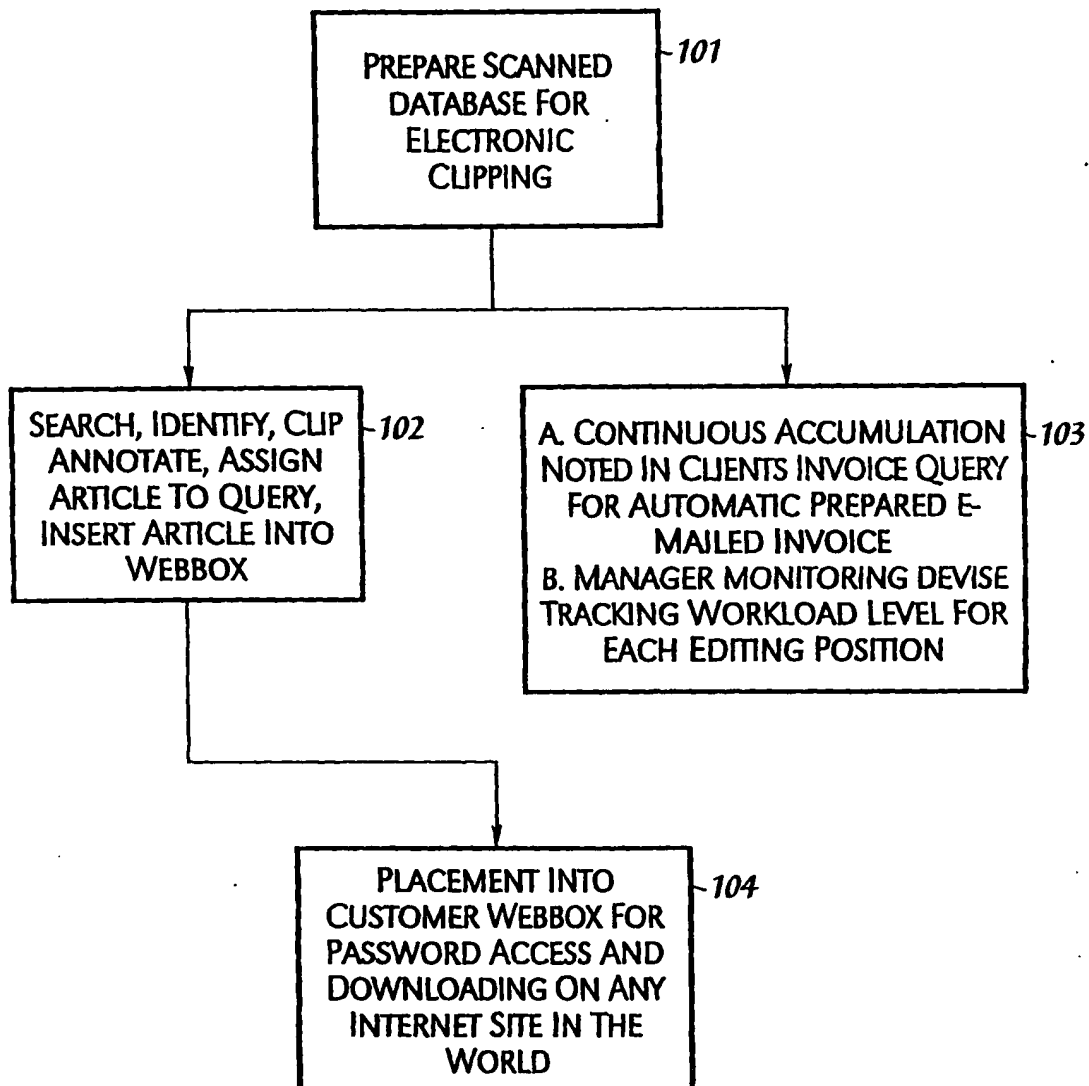
1           11.    The method as recited in claim 9, further comprising the step of:  
2                 displaying an image of the advertisement to a user accessing the webbox.

1           12.    A system comprising:  
2                    circuitry for receiving a digital file of a publication;  
3                    circuitry for displaying a page of the publication accessed from the digital file,  
4 wherein the page contains an advertisement;  
5                    circuitry for performing a software clipping of the advertisement; and  
6                    circuitry for inserting the advertisement clipped from the page of the  
7 publication into a webbox.

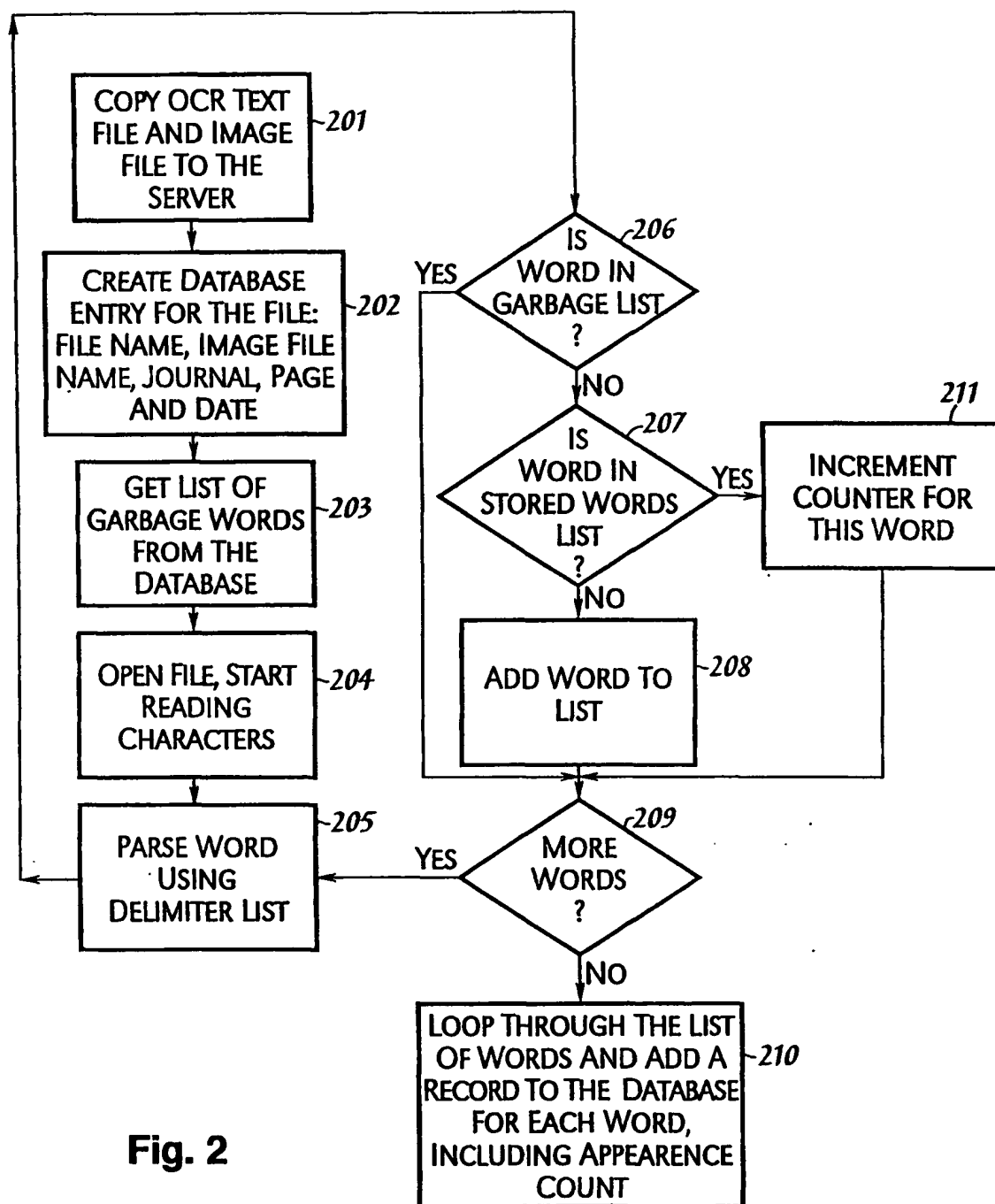
1           13.    The system as recited in claim 12, further comprising circuitry for scanning a  
2 printed version of the publication to create the digital file.

1           14.    The system as recited in claim 12, further comprising:  
2                    circuitry for displaying an image of the advertisement to a user accessing the  
3 webbox.

1/16

**Fig. 1**

2/16

**Fig. 2**

3/16

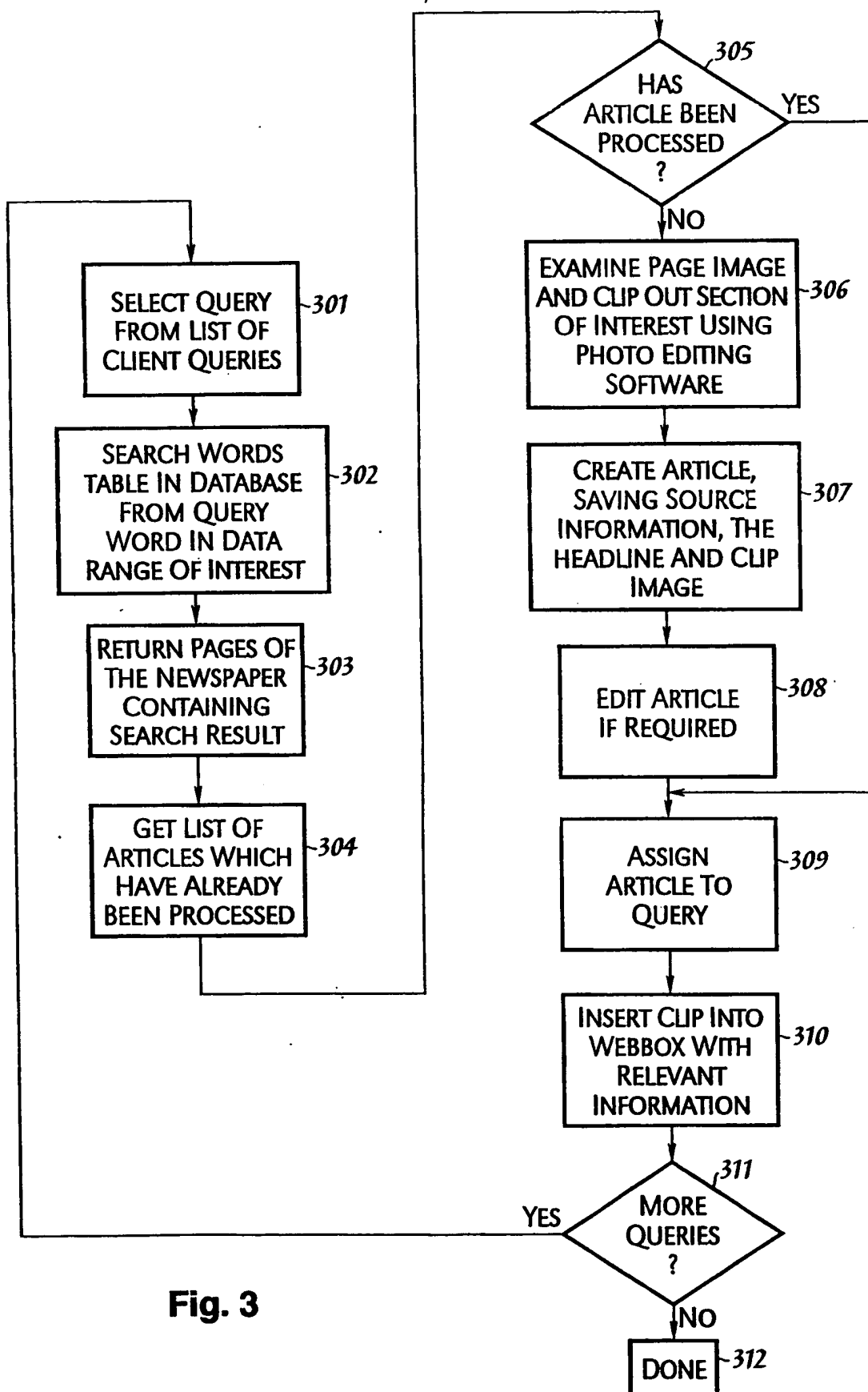
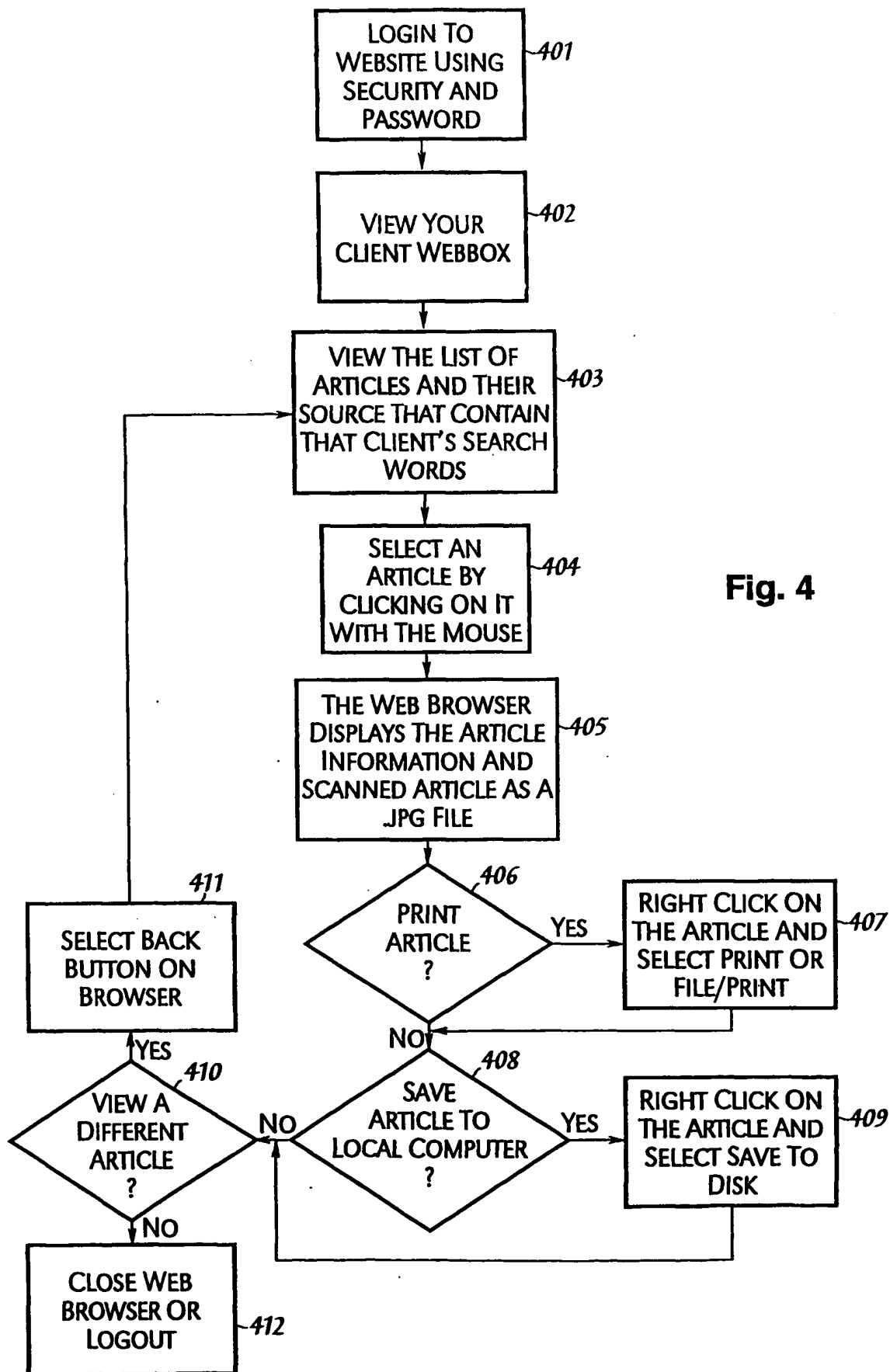


Fig. 3

4/16



5/16

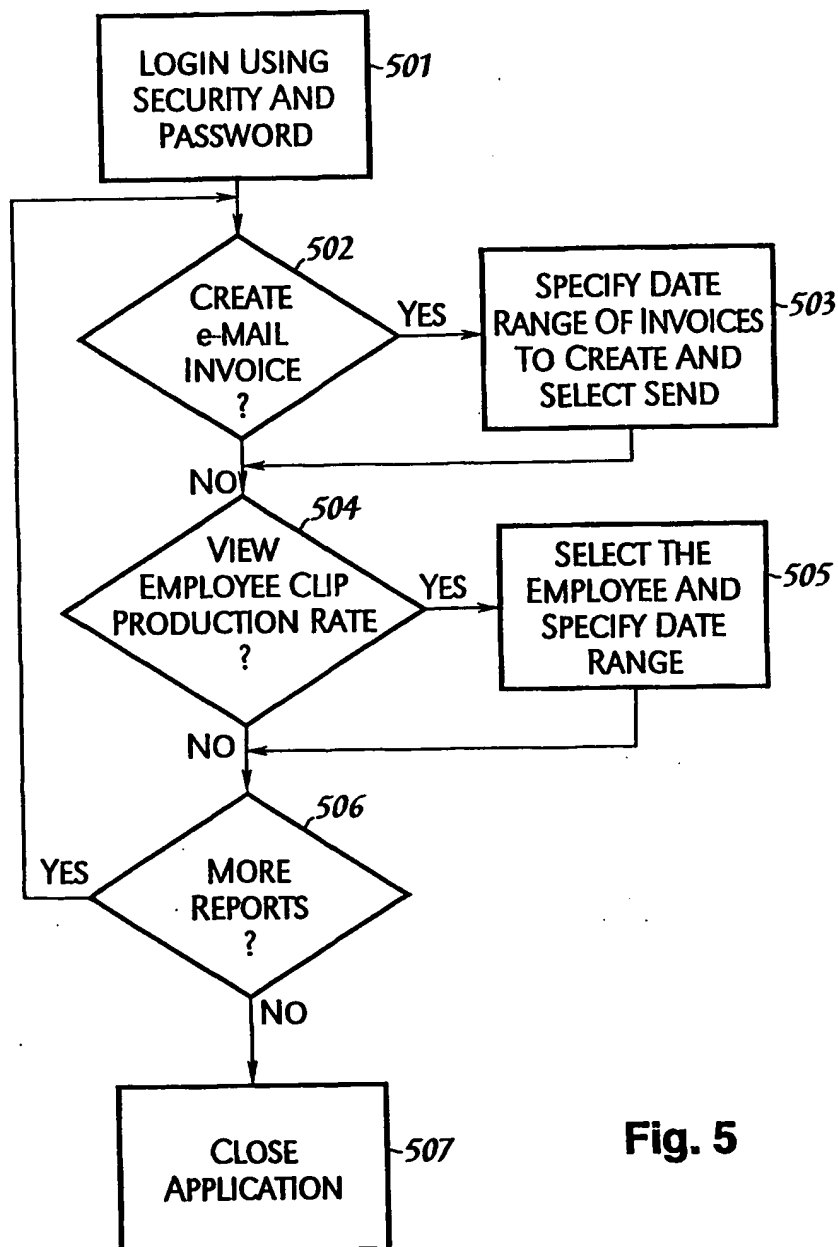


Fig. 5



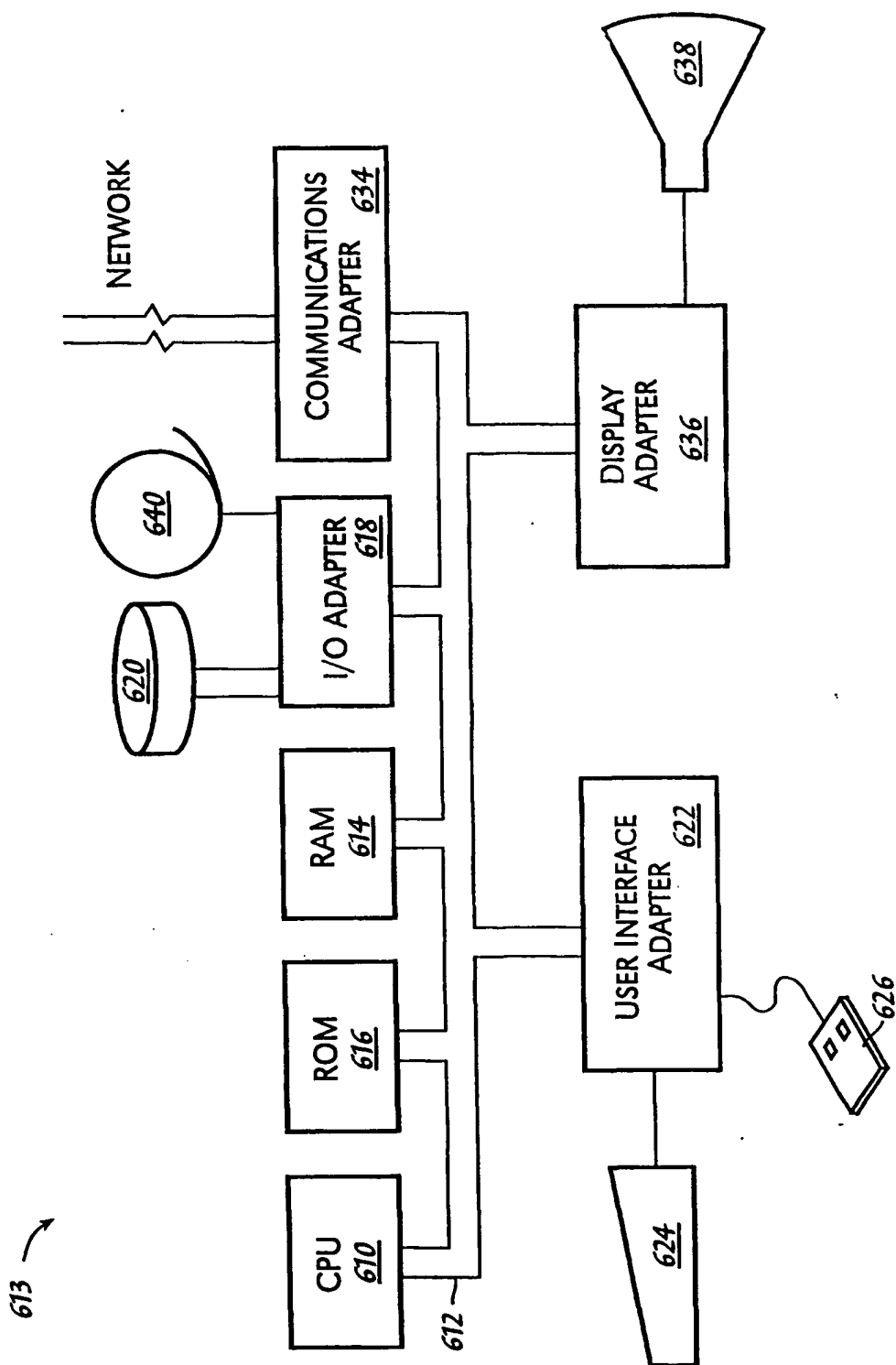
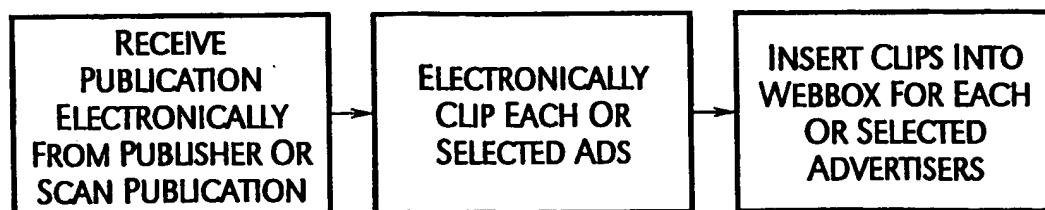
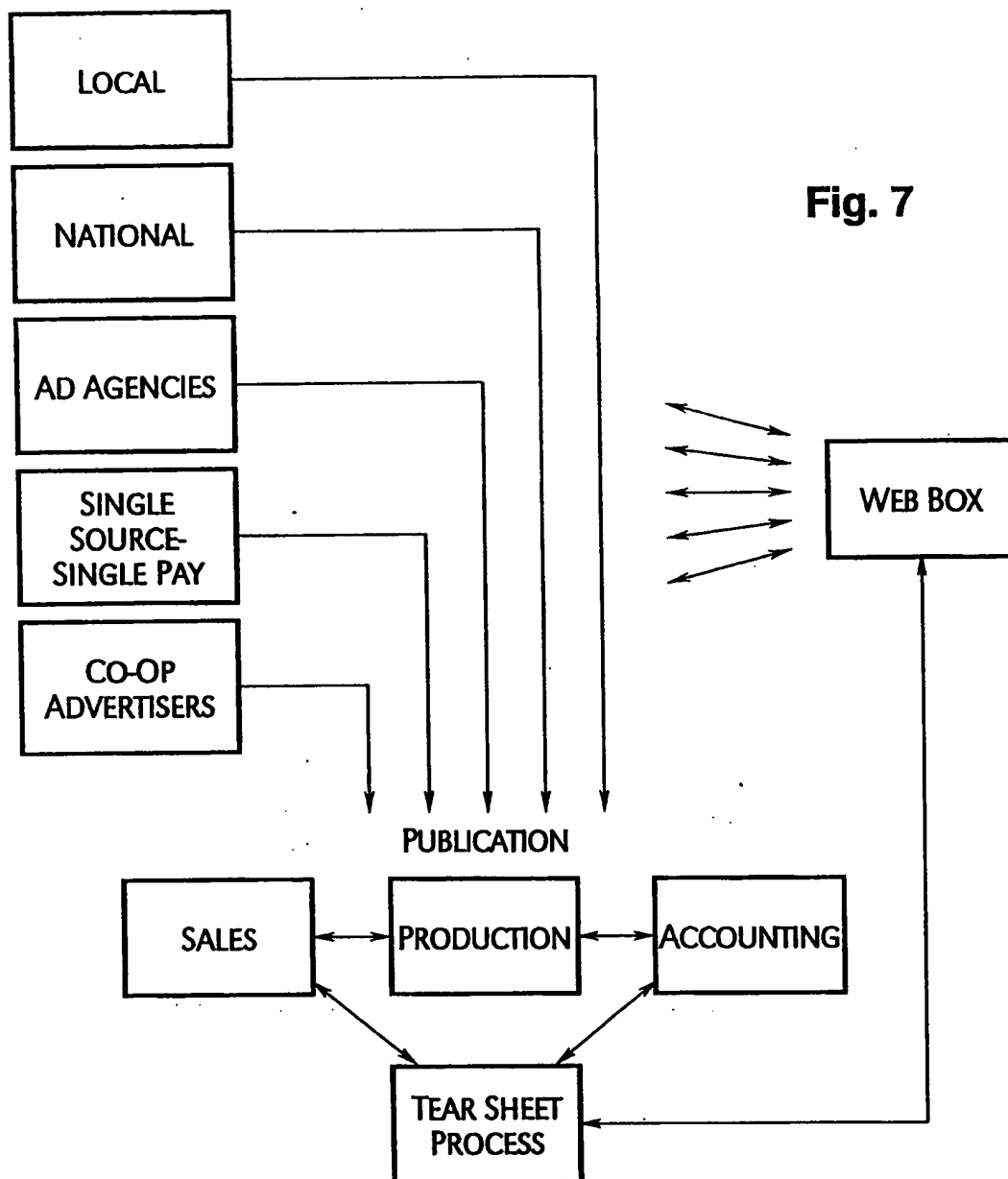


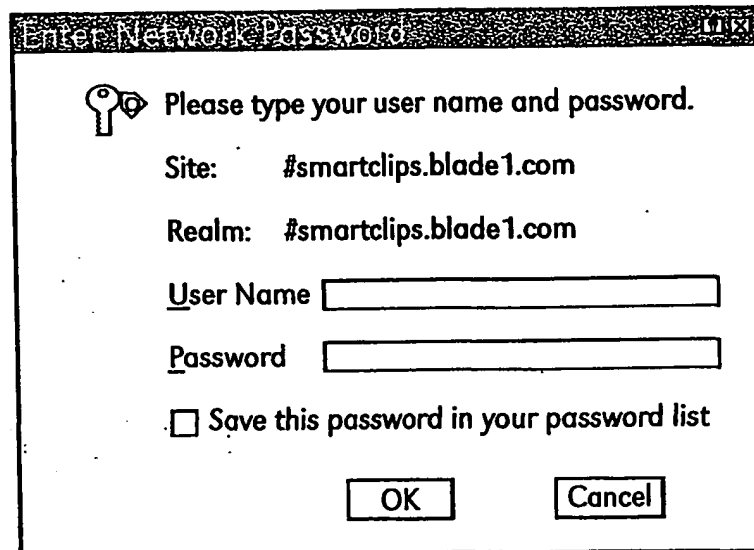
Fig. 6

7/16

## ADVERTISING SOURCES


**Fig. 8**

8/16



A screenshot of a Windows-style dialog box titled "Enter Network Password". The dialog box has a standard title bar with a close button. Inside, there is a key icon and the text "Please type your user name and password." Below this, the "Site:" and "Realm:" fields are both populated with "#smartclips.blade1.com". There are two input fields: "User Name" and "Password", both of which are empty. Below the input fields is a checkbox labeled "Save this password in your password list", which is currently unchecked. At the bottom of the dialog box are two buttons: "OK" and "Cancel".

Enter Network Password

 Please type your user name and password.

Site: #smartclips.blade1.com

Realm: #smartclips.blade1.com

User Name

Password

☐ Save this password in your password list

OK Cancel

**Fig. 9**

9/16

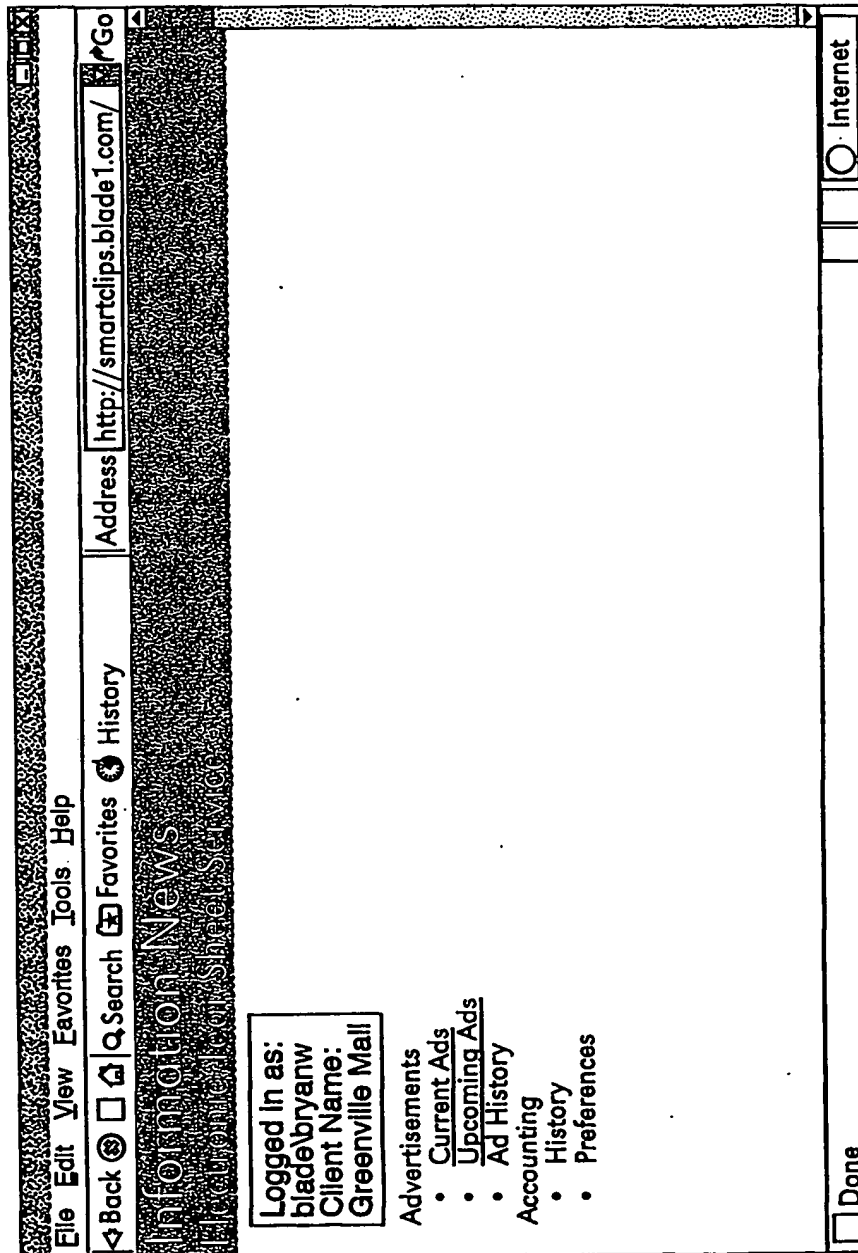
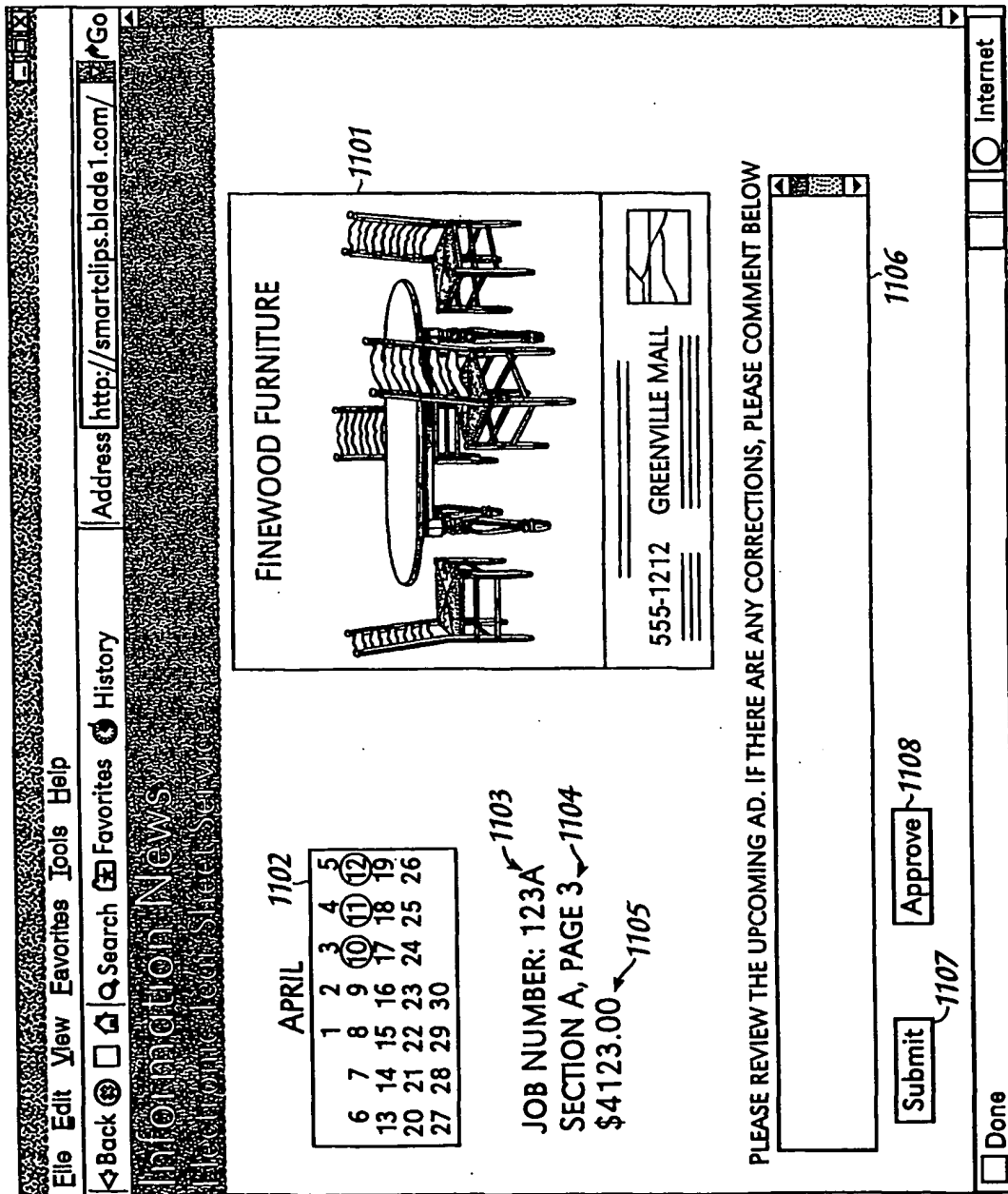


Fig. 10

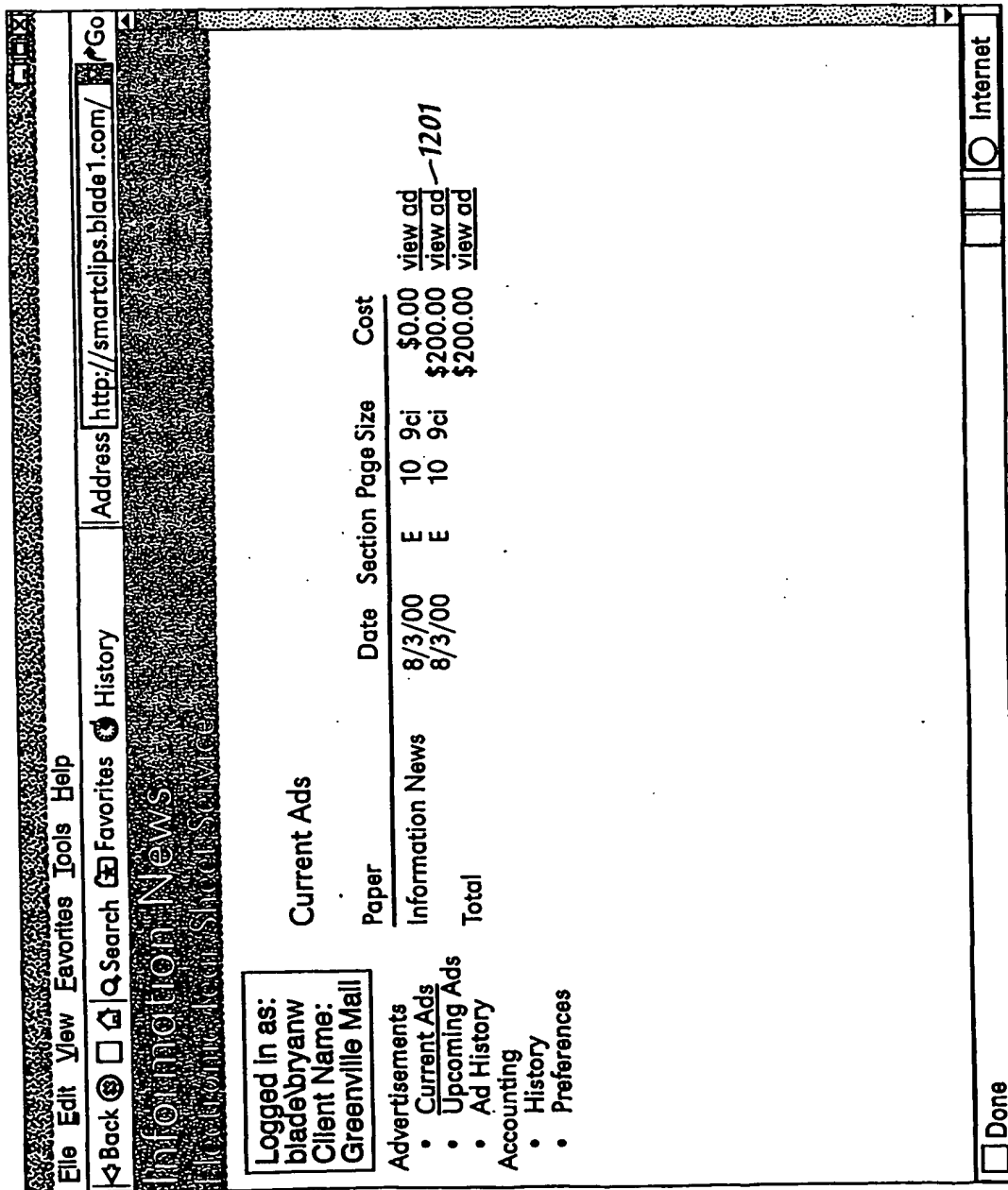
10/16

Fig. 11



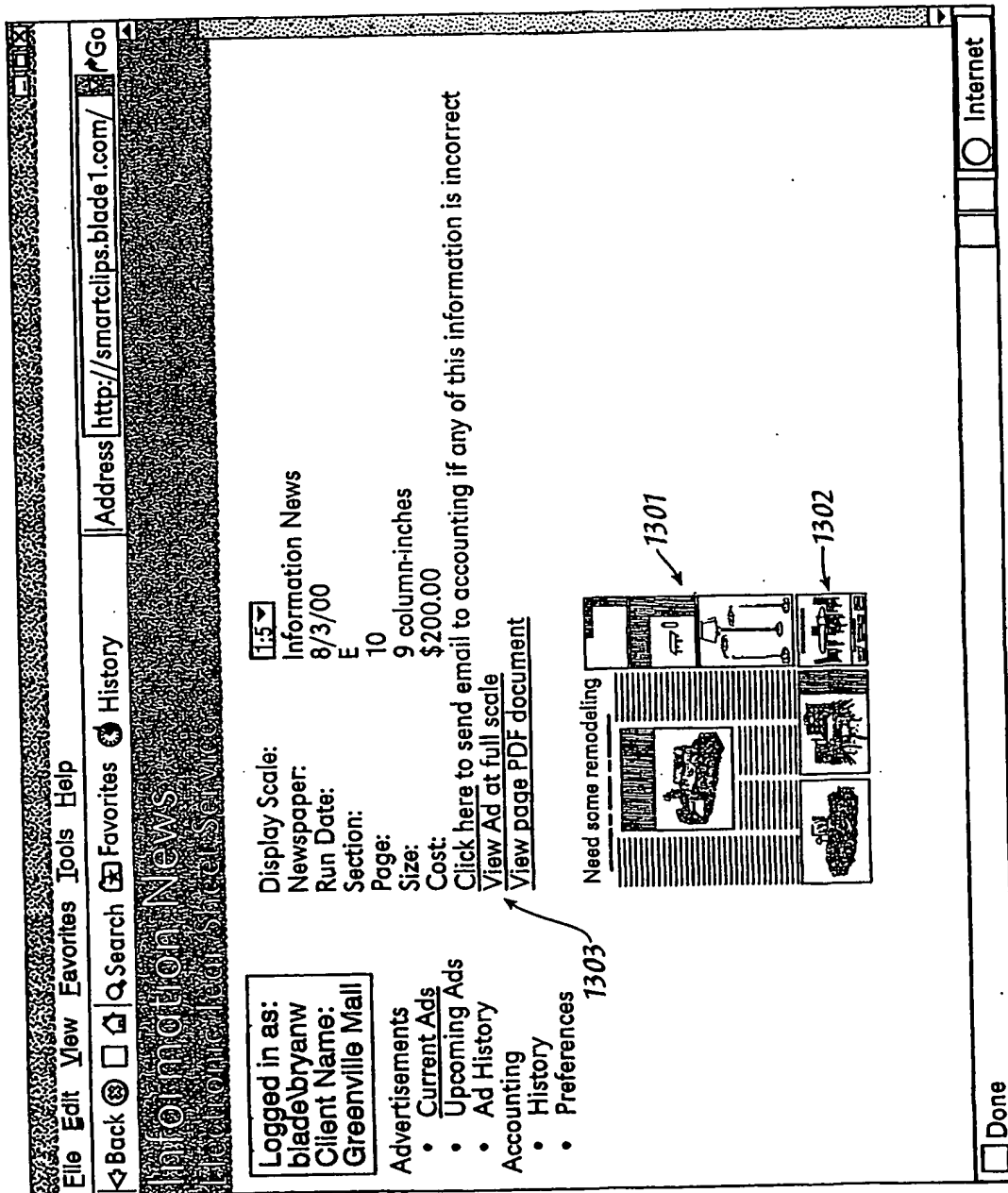
11/16

Fig. 12

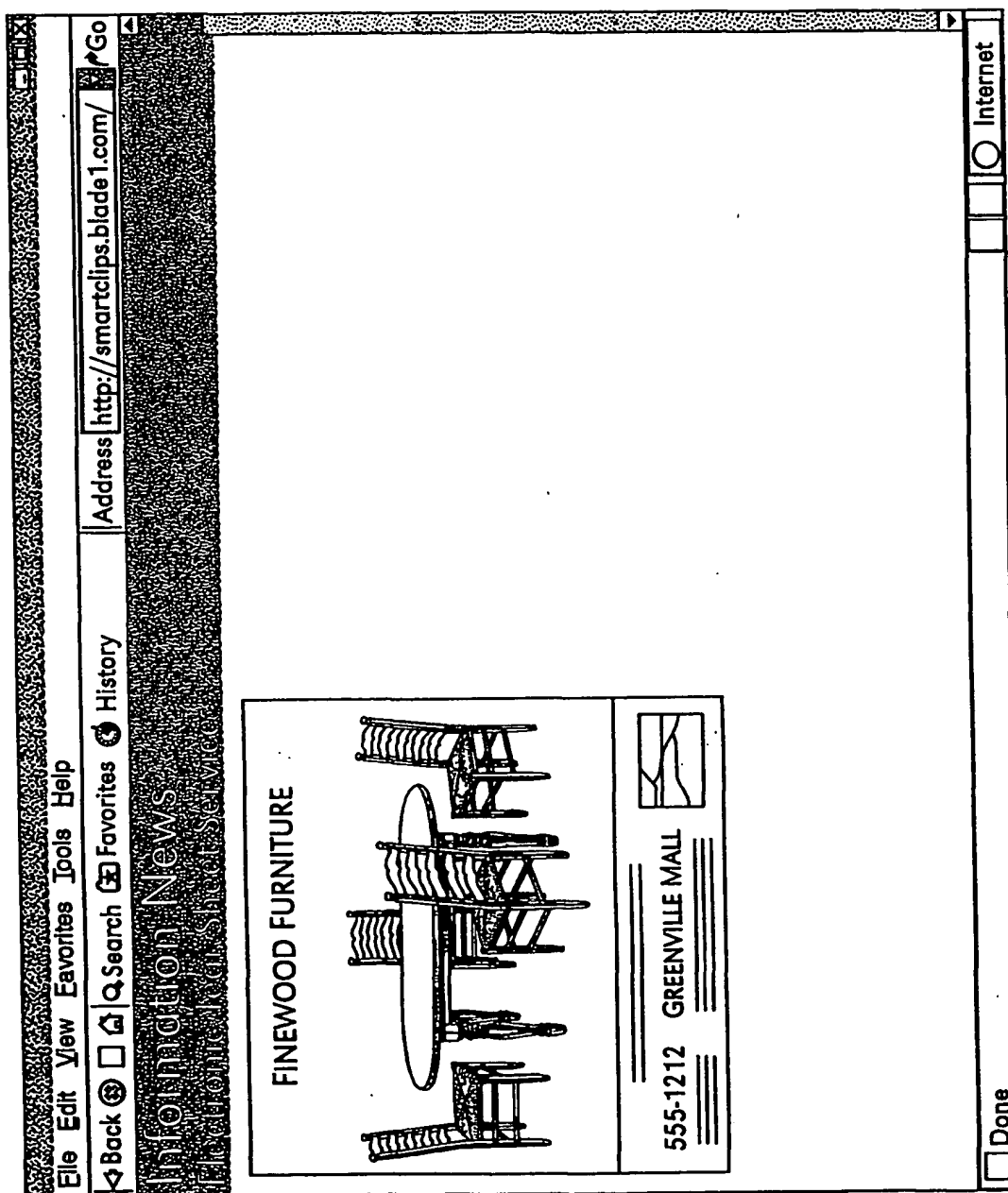


12/16

Fig. 13



**Fig. 14**





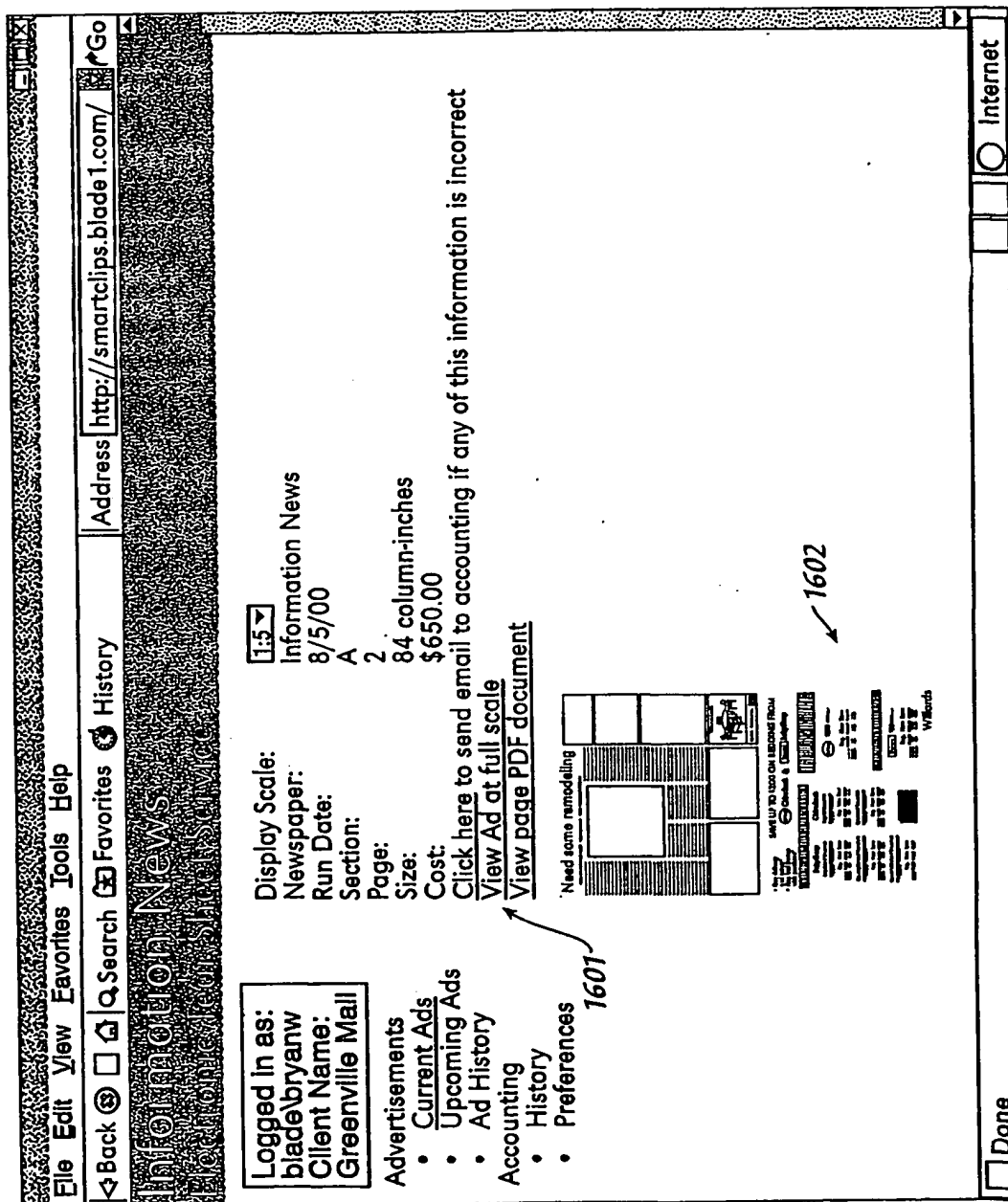
14/16

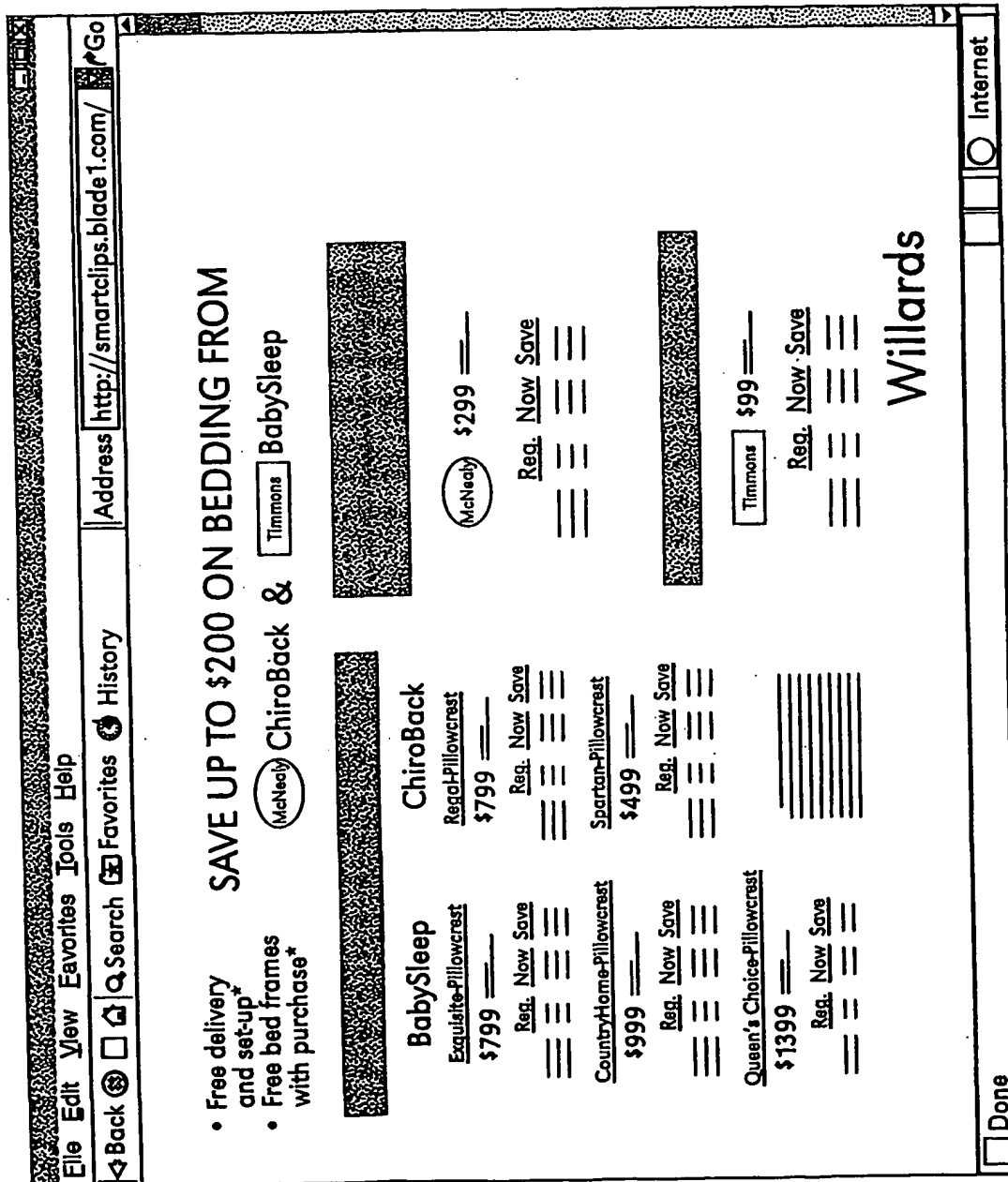
**Fig. 15**

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help		Back Search Favorites History		Address http://smartclips.blade1.com/ Go																												
<b>Information News</b>																																
Electronic Mail Sheet Service																																
<p><b>Current Ads</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Paper</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Section</th> <th>Page Size</th> <th>Cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Information News</td> <td>8/3/00</td> <td>E</td> <td>10 10 ci</td> <td>\$0.00 view ad</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8/5/00</td> <td>A</td> <td>2 84 ci</td> <td>\$650.00 view ad -1501</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8/5/00</td> <td>A</td> <td>3 84 ci</td> <td>\$650.00 view ad</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Total</td> <td>8/5/00</td> <td>A</td> <td>6 84 ci</td> <td>\$650.00 view ad</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>\$1950.00 view ad</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Paper	Date	Section	Page Size	Cost	Information News	8/3/00	E	10 10 ci	\$0.00 view ad	8/5/00	A	2 84 ci	\$650.00 view ad -1501	8/5/00	A	3 84 ci	\$650.00 view ad	Total	8/5/00	A	6 84 ci	\$650.00 view ad				\$1950.00 view ad
Paper	Date	Section	Page Size	Cost																												
Information News	8/3/00	E	10 10 ci	\$0.00 view ad																												
	8/5/00	A	2 84 ci	\$650.00 view ad -1501																												
	8/5/00	A	3 84 ci	\$650.00 view ad																												
Total	8/5/00	A	6 84 ci	\$650.00 view ad																												
				\$1950.00 view ad																												
<p><b>Logged In as:</b> blade\bryanw <b>Client Name:</b> Willard's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advertisements</li> <li>• Current Ads</li> <li>• Upcoming Ads</li> <li>• Ad History</li> <li>Accounting</li> <li>• History</li> <li>• Preferences</li> </ul>																																
Done Internet																																

15/16

Fig. 16





## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US01/07448

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 17/60

US CL : 705/26

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 705/26-27

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

DIALOG, WEST

search terms: publication, document, clipping, scan

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,646,992 A (SUBLER ET AL) 08 JULY 1997.	1-14
A,P	US 6,055,513 A (KATZ ET AL) 25 APRIL 2000.	1-14

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

*A*	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*T*	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
*B*	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*X*	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
*L*	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*Y*	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
*O*	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	*A*	document member of the same patent family
*P*	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

01 JULY 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

13 JUL 2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Box PCT  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

A. J. HEINZ

Telephone No.

(703) 305-1544 James R. Matthews